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And not where navies churn the foam,
Nor called to fields of fierce emprise
In many a country cottage-home
The Empire-builder lives and dies;
Or through the roaring streets he goes
A lean and weary city slave,
The conqueror of a thousand foes
Who walks unheeded to his grave.

For all are Empire builders here,
Whose hearts are true to heaven and home
And, year by slow revolving year,
Fulfil the duties as they come.
So simple seems the task, and yet
Many for this are crucified;
Ay, and their brother-men forget
The simple wounds in palm and side.

But he that to his home is true
Where'er the tides of power may flow,
Has built a kingdom great and new
Which Time nor Fate shall overthrow.
These are the Empire builders, these
Annex where none shall say them nay
Beyond the world's unchartered seas
Realms that can never pass away.

Extract from "The Empire Builders"
Alfred Noyes.

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